

b) contacting said proteins with at least one stimulus-specific antibody, wherein binding of the stimulus-specific antibody to said proteins is indicative of infection in said mammal.

REMARKS

Claims 2-4, 10-11, 13-16, 19-21, 23-44, 46-47, 52-54, 56-58 have been canceled. Claims 7-9, 12, 18, and 55 have been amended to clarify the claim language.

No new matter has been added by these amendments.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (978) 341-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTSClaim Amendments Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii)

7. (Amended) The method of Claim 6, wherein the stimulus-responsive gene probe is a stimulus-specific gene probe.
8. (Amended) The method of Claim 6, wherein the stimulus-responsive gene probe is a [common-stimulus-responsive] common stimulus-responsive gene probe.
9. (Amended) A method of diagnosing infection by a pathogen in a mammal comprising the steps of[;]:
 - a) isolating mRNA from one or more dendritic cells in a mammal;
 - b) determining gene expression of at least [one-stimulus-specific] one stimulus-specific gene,wherein expression of a stimulus-specific gene is indicative of infection by a pathogen to which the stimulus-specific gene is specific.
12. (Amended) A method for predicting prognosis for an infected individual comprising [the steps of :
 - a)] analyzing gene profiles of stimulus-responsive genes, wherein a gene profile is correlated with a clinical prognosis.
18. (Amended) An *ex vivo* therapeutic treatment for a disorder selected from the group consisting of pathogenic infection, tumor, and autoimmunity [pathogen] comprising the steps of:
 - a) contacting a patient's dendritic cells with [a pathogen] an agent selected from the group consisting of a pathogen, a tumor and a self-antigen, or components thereof, such that said dendritic cells become activated;

- b) returning activated dendritic cells to the patient such that activated dendritic cells trigger an immune response against said pathogen, tumor or self-antigen.

55. (Amended) A method of diagnosing infection in a mammal comprising the steps of:

- a) isolating proteins from one or more dendritic cells from said mammal;
- b) contacting said proteins with at least one stimulus-specific antibody[;], wherein binding of [a] the stimulus-specific antibody to said proteins [are] is indicative of infection in said mammal.